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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 87  
**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**

INTRODUCED BY  
Irvin Harrison

A JOINT MEMORIAL  
REQUESTING SPECIAL RESPECT FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS IN THE  
DELIVERY OF LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES TO AGING PERSONS.

WHEREAS, all of New Mexico's various cultural populations  
honor and respect their elders; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans in particular honor their  
seniors, looking to them to provide the teachings through which  
the strength of the people is passed from generation to  
generation; and

WHEREAS, as elders need increased care, services may be  
provided to them in both institutional and home-based settings;  
and

WHEREAS, the human services department, through the  
medicaid program, the department of health, through its long-  
term care and restorative services division, and the state

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1 agency on aging all provide services statewide, including on  
2 lands of Native American nations, tribes and pueblos; and

3 WHEREAS, regardless of who is paying for services, care  
4 must always be provided with the utmost respect for a person's  
5 condition and cultural preferences; and

6 WHEREAS, the proposed aging and long-term care department  
7 will include a separate office of Indian elder affairs;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that long-term care services, whether  
10 provided under medicaid or other state programs, be designed  
11 and provided with cultural considerations specific to Native  
12 American populations; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to the degree possible,  
14 services be provided by Native Americans qualified and trained  
15 in personal care who speak the language of the care recipient;  
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the respective departments  
18 each take into consideration differences, including cost  
19 differences, between services provided in urban and rural  
20 environments and especially those various factors affecting  
21 delivery of services in rural areas; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the state agency on aging, the human services  
24 department and the department of health.

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